

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 12, 15 and 17 through 33 are pending in the present application. Claims 13, 14 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 17 through 33 are newly presented.

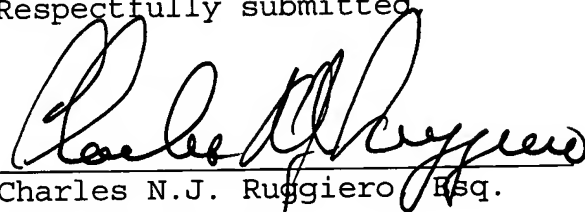
The Applicant has requested that the amendments of the Final Office Action that were filed on August 23, 2004, be entered.

The amendments in the present response find support in the application and no new matter has been added. These amendments are intended for clarification and to further prosecution of the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments are non-narrowing and are not made to avoid prior art for substantial reasons related to patentability. Accordingly, prosecution history estoppel should not apply; therefore, the doctrine of equivalents is available for all elements of the amended claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed on to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

November 22, 2004

Date

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